(d) and (e) A scheme has been approved by the Government for extending financial assistance to deep sea/mechanized fishing vessles for converting to mono-filament tuna long liners to harvest the tuna resources. Under the scheme, MPEDA-provides financial assistance @ 50% of the cost for modification of deep-sea fishing vessels up to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh and a maximum of Rs. 7.50 lakh for mechanized vessels for converting to mono-filament tuna long liner.

Special assistance for development of tea industry in Assam

1648. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to give special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame fixed for the purpose; and

(c) whether the industry would also be required to contribute its own share for the purpose in addition to the Government's assistance and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to grant any special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam. However, Government proposes to set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund for financing replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes, which would be available to all tea gardens in the country including Assam. Financing from the Special Purpose Tea Fund would include borrowers' contribution, the exact quantum of which is being finalized.

FDI in townships in SEZs

1649. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in townships does not apply to projects located in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of FDI available for townships in SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% is permissible under automatic route for establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), covering industrial, commercial or social infrastructure or other facilities necessary for the development of SEZs. The reasons for permitting upto 100% FDI in establishment of SEZs are to attract foreign investment in establishment of SEZs, generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities.

Separate Tobacco Board for Non-Virginia Tobacco

1650. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to form a separate Tobacco Board for non-Virginia type of tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal;

(c) whether Government are aware that non-Virginia tobacco is an important crop in many States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, etc;

(d) whether any survey has been done on the exports potential of non-Virginia tobacco and its potential; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to bring the crop under active Government supervision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal to bring the non-FCV tobacco under Government's supervision.